

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/653,249

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner has not cited the Reichardt reference on a Notice of References Cited form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to cite to the reference in a Notice of References Cited form, in a subsequent Office Action, in order to have the reference properly placed of record in the Application.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites, “a plate connected between the left and right side plates to partially form an upper surface of the reel body, wherein the plate is respectively positioned between the operating member and a front end of the reel body, and wherein the operating portion is projected upward from a surface of the plate.”

The Examiner maintains that the casing 5 of Reichardt discloses the claimed plate. Applicant submits, however, that the casing 5 is a handle-side outer plate for closing a gear box. Further, a member that connects the alleged side plates is a rod or pole, not a plate. Accordingly to claim 1, and as set forth above, the claimed plate is positioned between the operating member and a front end of the reel body. Contrary to this, in Reichardt, the casing 5 itself constitutes the front end of the reel body. Therefore, the casing 5 cannot be positioned between the operating member and the front end of the reel body.

Furthermore, as set forth above, the claimed operating member is projected upward from a surface of the plate. Contrary to this, the alleged operating member of Reichardt, i.e., the plate 24, is projected rearward from a bottom portion of the reel body at a rod attaching portion. Thus, the plate 24 is not projected upward from a surface of plate in the manner set forth in claim 1.

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At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Claims 2 and 11

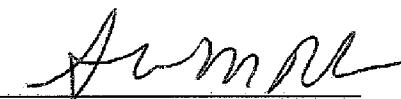
Since claims 2 and 11 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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